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## BRITISH COLUMBIA MINING RECORD

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### THE PROGRESS OF MINING IN THE BOUNDARY DISTRICT.

**I**N this month's issue of the MINING RECORD an effort has been made to deal as fully as possible with the mineral and other resources of a section of British Columbia which in the short space of rather over two years has come to be regarded as the most important copper-producing area in British Columbia. The extraordinary industrial developments which have taken place in the Boundary Creek District since the completion of the Columbia & Western branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1900, are in the following pages well described by our Boundary District correspondent, Mr. E. Jacobs, who, as most of our readers are aware, has earned and enjoys a high reputation, unfortunately not shared by many newspaper correspondents in Western mining camps, for careful, conscientious work. As a resident of several years standing in the district, and having watched the growth of the mines from the early prospect stage, he is exceptionally well qualified to take up the subject, and every dependence may be placed upon the accuracy of his statements. Mr. Jacobs in the following introductory article, in a general way sums up the progress that has been made in the Boundary District.

"When I proposed to the managing editor of the B. C. MINING RECORD that he place the May number of that journal at my disposal for a description of the Boundary District, it was my intention to make the descriptive matter as full and comprehensive as possible within the limits of that number. Unfortunately, after arrangements had been made in accordance with my proposal, a fortnight's unavoidable delay took place before the work of preparing the "copy" could be entered upon. This prevented the intended careful revision and condensation of the matter, since it had to be sent to the printer piecemeal, as written. If, then, it appears that in some instances mining properties or places have either been left out or given but scant notice, whilst others relatively less important have undue prominence, allowance should be made for such shortcomings, which under the circumstances necessarily occurred.

"The following pages have been so much increased beyond the number originally intended that introductory comment must of necessity be brief. It will, therefore,

be restricted chiefly to the emphasizing of a few important points: (1) To the great benefit working mines and smelters and their numerous industrial accompaniments are, first to the country surrounding them, and next to the Province at large; (2) To the fact that the mining and smelting industries of the Boundary are steadily attaining to more important proportions, and (3) To their present value and future enormous possibilities.

"In connection with the first point as it relates to this district in particular, it appears only necessary to mention that during the last three years from \$15,000,000 to \$20,000,000 at least have been expended, much in the form of wages for labour, as a direct result of local mining operations—in the opening up and equipment of mines, the erection of smelters with their costly plants, the building and equipment of railways, the utilization of water powers, the carrying out of many public improvements, and the building up of several towns that are now populous centres. As to the benefit to the Province: The direct mining revenue received at the government offices at Greenwood and Grand Forks during the last three years exceeded \$75,000, but there were in addition revenues large in the aggregate, from assessed taxes on land, pre-emption and purchase of lands, revenue tax, trade and liquor license fees, timber dues, ore tax and other sources of Provincial revenue.

"Next, the increasing importance of the mining and smelting industries of the Boundary:—Up to June 30, 1900, the aggregate of all shipments of ore to that date was little more than 4,000 tons. During the second half of that year the total tonnage was increased to 97,837 tons. During 1901 shipments totalled 386,675 tons—nearly four times the tonnage of the previous year. Up to the middle of April of this year about 135,000 tons had been sent out, this being at the rate of about 475,000 tons per annum, but there is good reason to estimate that this year's shipments, which are steadily increasing, will reach a total of between 600,000 and 700,000 tons. The quantity of ore smelted in the district during 1900 was 62,387 tons; during 1901 it was 348,493 tons. To the middle of April of the current year about 133,000 tons had been smelted, or at the rate of about 465,000 tons per annum, but with two more furnaces to be blown in shortly, the year's tonnage should reach a total of about 650,000 tons at the least. This leaves out of account the probability of still further additions to the number of furnaces.

"Now, in regard to value of these industries—with-out authentic information as to actual values of the ores and the cost of producing them and extracting their value contents, it is idle to speculate as to these, but it is here asserted with confidence that the statement is reliable, the two companies operating on a large scale in the district are certainly making a profit above cost